

Junk-Tire Problem Begins Slow Burn At Cement Plant

By Jim Woolf
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

LEAMINGTON — Utah's junk-tire problem may have ended this week.

The Ash Grove Cement Co. started burning tires Monday in the kiln at its plant near Leamington, a small town about 20 miles northeast of Delta. The hot-burning rubber will replace about 15% of the coal needed to "cook" the raw materials to make cement.

The kiln will burn about 1.2 million tires a year when operating at full production, said plant manager Duane Crutchfield. That is about half the tires thrown away each year by Utahns.

State air-quality experts predict no change in the amount of pollution emitted from the plant's smokestack. Steel belts in the tires melt in the kiln and are incorporated into the cement.

Holnan Cement previously received approval to burn tires at its Devils Slide plant in Morgan County. However, this facility has encountered problems finding the chopped-up tires needed for its operation and temporarily has stopped burning rubber. Ash Grove is burning whole tires.

John Densley, president of A-J Tire Recyclers, said the piles of junk tires scattered around Utah should vanish quickly when Ash Grove and Holnan are burning rubber. A-J Tires has a huge pile of tires near Grantsville.

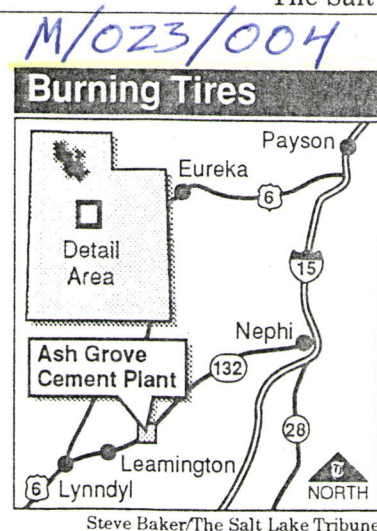
The Legislature sparked this new interest. Lawmakers were concerned about the growing piles of discarded tires that no one wanted. They pose a fire hazard and provide a breeding ground for rodents and insects.

Drug Bust Starts in Richfield, Ends in New York

By Norma Wagner
and Hal Edwards
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

RICHFIELD — The driver of a semi filled with cocaine made four mistakes that led to his arrest and that of six others Wednesday.

He forgot to put license plates on the 18-wheeler; his bill of lading was riddled with errors; there was no registration, and there was



Steve Baker/The Salt Lake Tribune

Tires are banned from most landfills because they take up too much space. They also tend to expand and contract, working their way to the surface when buried.

The Legislature's solution was to impose a \$1.10-per-tire disposal fee on the sale of new tires and offer the money to anyone who found a use for junk tires. Companies were offered \$65 per ton of recycled tires. Burning tires as fuel is considered recycling.

William H. Siemering, Ash Grove's vice president for production, said the Legislature's incentive makes it more profitable to burn tires than coal at the Ash Grove plant. In fact, after paying A-J Tires to pick up and deliver the tires, Ash Grove has enough left over from the state payment to make a small profit on the tires.

"This helps clean up the tire piles and saves us a lot of money on fuel," he said.

When Ash Grove's system is operating fully, tires will be piled onto a conveyor belt and moved to a staging area near the plant. They then will be lifted 62 feet into the air on an elevator and dropped through a hopper into the kiln. Only parts of the tire-handling system were operating this week.

ture, fiberglass bathtubs and showers, officer Torgerson found six cardboard boxes filled with more than 480 kilos of packaged cocaine.

Police arrested Mr. Bonilla, 37, Los Angeles, and the driver, Jose Delacruz, 32, of Van Nuys, Calif. Then they concocted a sting operation and convinced the men to continue with the delivery. They delivered the cocaine on schedule

Utah-Bound Perot Chi

By Dan Harrie
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

Ross Perot's prescription for braking the runaway federal deficit sounds a lot like former first lady Nancy Reagan's anti-drug campaign.

"At this point, the smartest thing for the American people to do is 'Just Say No' to the Clinton economic plan," Mr. Perot said on the eve of his visit to Utah.

In a conference call Thursday with reporters in the Western states, the 1992 independent presidential candidate said "shared sacrifice" tax increases are essential to capping the exploding federal debt.

But those hikes must be matched with deep spending reductions — a fair mix that Mr. Perot said the Clinton plan misses by a mile.

"The net of it is that the American people on Day One start getting their pocket picked with new taxes," said the Texas billionaire. "Right now, I'd say we have no tax increase until we have a sound plan. We don't have a sound plan."

Mr. Perot has said he would rather undergo surgery without anesthesia than run for president again. But he is buying \$500,000 "info-mercials," conducting "national referendums" in *TV Guide* ballots and scurrying around the country recruiting members for his organization, United We Stand America.

This weekend, he heads west for rallies in Utah, Montana, Washington and Oregon. The first stop on the swing is 6:30 tonight at Cottonwood High School in Salt Lake County.

Mr. Perot drew 19% of the vote last year, including a strong second-place finish in Utah. His goal is to sign up 20% of Americans as members in his new

Horiuchi Cracks Down on S.L. C

By Tony Semerad
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

A request by the Salt Lake County sheriff's office to send three deputies to California for five days in July is raising some eyebrows.

The department insists the trip to an American Polygraph Association training session in Newport Beach, Calif., is necessary to sharpen the deputies' skills at giving lie-detecting tests.

It was either that or send them to Florida or Canada, says department spokesman Jim Potter.

But Salt Lake County Commissioner Randy Horiuchi calls that argument "bull."

"You cannot do business that way," Mr. Horiuchi says. "If those are the only places they can go to keep their licenses current, then maybe we need to get with the state and change the licensing requirements."

● County Health Director Harry Gibbons will attend a five-day conference on alternative medicine in Toronto at the end of May. A month later, Gibbons will return to work on tires from county employees.

● Before spring is over, workers will attend a conference at resort towns such as Lake Tahoe, Nev., Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Jackson, Wyo., and Palm Springs, Calif.

● Fourteen employees of Salt Lake County attorney general's office will travel to southern California for a three-day conference.

● Since March 1, Mr. Horiuchi has spent two days in Kansas City for a highway meeting and then in St. George studying with the state. He and commissioner Brannon are scheduled to attend a day Spring Management conference in Cedar City in a week.